

REMARKS

Prior to this Amendment and Response, claims 1-22 were pending in the Application. Herein, claims 7, 11, 14, 18, and 21-22 were amended; no claims were added; and claims 1-2 and 16-17 were cancelled. Therefore, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 3-15 and 18-22 will remain pending in the Application. Entry of this Amendment and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1-22 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-20 of co-pending Application No. 09/599,138. In response, and without traversing or accepting the Examiners characterization of the claims in this regard, Applicants have through their attorney-of-record executed a Terminal Disclaimer, filed herewith.

Applicants respectfully suggest that this ground for rejection has thereby been overcome.

Claim Objections

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2 and 17, which in the previously-filed Amendment were placed in independent form as claims 21 and 22, respectively.

In response, claims 2 and 17 have been cancelled, and claim 18 has been amended to depend from claim 22. Applicants respectfully suggest that this ground for objection has thereby been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Roderique et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,764).

In response, and without traversing or accepting the Examiners characterization of the claims in this regard, Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 16.

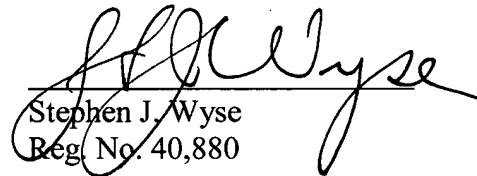
Applicants respectfully suggest that this ground for rejection has thereby been overcome.

In the Office Action mailed 13 February 2004, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-15 and 17-20 contained allowable subject matter. Except for the Objections to claims 2 and 17, and the double-patenting rejection, both addressed herein, these claims were not mentioned in the Office Action mailed 12 August 2004.

Applicants therefore believe that upon entry of this Amendment, all pending claims will be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of claims 3-15 and 18-22 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions, or if any additional action by Applicants is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12 Nov 2004


Stephen J. Wyse
Reg. No. 40,880

SCHEEF & STONE, L.L.P.
5956 Sherry Lane, Suite 1400
Dallas, Texas 75225
Telephone: (214) 706-4200
Fax: (214) 706-4242
stephen.wyse@scheefandstone.com